

REMARKS

The Official Action of August 16, 2006, and the prior art cited and relied upon therein have been carefully studied. The claims in the application remain as claims 1 and 5-20, and these claims define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Favorable reconsideration and such allowance are respectfully urged.

Claims 1 and 5-20 remain in the application for consideration.

In response to the Examiner's rejection of claims 5-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Applicant has corrected claims 5-8 to depend from claim 1 as intended, rather than cancel claim 4. Applicant requests that these claims be examined as was obviously intended.

The Examiner has further rejected claims 1 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(A) as obvious over Cunningham '289 in view of anyone Schmidt, du Quesne, Feldmann or Wuesthoff. Applicant requests that this rejection be reconsidered.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejection cannot be understood and is clearly unresponsive to Applicant's May 25, 2006 response.

In that response, Applicant clearly noted that

"...each of the claimed clamping jaws are in respective abutting engagement in the slots in the claimed plate. In comparison, the Cunningham clamping jaws 10 shown in Fig. 5 illustrated in the Examiner's Office Action are slidably mounted on a clamp carrier 21 which is fixed on table II (see col. 4, lines 45-52 and Fig. 4 of Cunningham)."

In response, the Examiner indicates that Cunningham teaches "a plate with a series of equidistant radial slots in each of which a clamping jaw (10) is received and slides to grip the edge of a wheel rim." This is clearly inconsistent with an non-responsive to Applicant's claim 1 language setting out "a clamping jaw in abutting engagement in each of said slots so as to slide in said slot," as the Cunningham jaw clearly does not slide in the radial slots in its plate.

Further, the Examiner indicates that the Cunningham clamping jaw is "associated with actuator means (Fig. 1) causing it to translate in a radial direction. The Examiner's reference to "Fig. 1" of Cunningham neither indicates that Fig. 1 is a depiction of the prior art nor identifies the structural elements in Fig. 1 representing the actuator means referenced by the Examiner.

Finally, Applicant notes that the Cunningham jaw consists of two parts, the first (element 21) is linked to the

first part 21 of the other jaws to maintain it equidistant from the axis of the plate, and the second (element 10) being the jaw itself which can move in respect to the first part without being linked to the second parts of the other jaws which are therefore not maintained equidistant from the plate axis.

The Examiner maintains that the positioner device of the claims is in the possible adjustment between the first and the second parts of each jaw.

Applicant submits that this does not achieve the result because the jaws of Cunningham are not directly linked together to be always equidistant from the axis, but are supporting parts (the first part ref. 21) of the jaws to be linked.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed, or a new rejection be provided responsive to Applicant's rebuttal of the prior art rejection.

The prior art documents made of record and not relied upon have been noted along with the implication that such documents are deemed by the PTO to be insufficiently

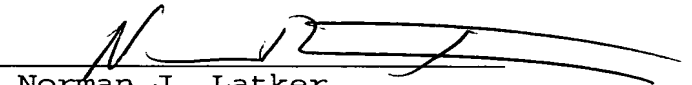
Appln. No. 10/698,359  
Amdt. dated October 16, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of August 16, 2006

pertinent to warrant their applications against any of  
applicant's claims.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance are  
earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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